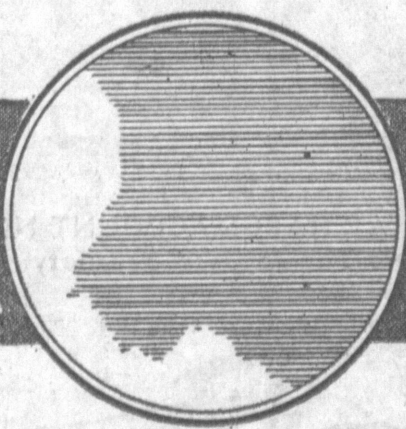


Fire Department Schedule Approved

Good Turn

A 92-year-old woman has been "adopted" by a group of Torrance youngsters. A PRESS photo-feature page in today's edition spotlights the work of the local boys and girls on page B-8.

• TORRANCE
• SOUTH BAY
• CARSON
• LOMITA
• HARBOR AREA



READ IT FIRST IN THE PRESS

THE PRESS

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BANDITS HIT TWICE

"Council OK's 3-Platoons For Firemen

An ordinance changing the city fire department's present two-platoon system to a three-platoon division was approved last night by the Torrance city council.

Under the new measure, the system will become effective on Jan. 1, 1964.

Urgency Measure
Adopted on motion of Victor Benstead, chairman of the council's police and fire committee, the ordinance was described as an "urgency measure, the immediate adoption of which is necessary for the preservation of public peace, health and safety."

The three-platoon system will reduce the work week to 60.3 hours and will put firemen on a 24-hour-on, 48-hour-off schedule. Each of the three platoons would work one-third of the time. No increase in the present amount of fire department personnel is needed.

Week Reduced
The firemen's work week will be reduced under the new ordinance by more than four hours. Adoption of the system opens 10 new positions in the department, including a battalion chief, five captains and four engineer's positions. All promotion will be made within the department.

The new ordinance had been approved by the city manager, fire chief and director of finance.

WEATHER

Clear and cool with slightly warmer temperatures predicted for Thursday. The high expected is 64 degrees with a low of 41. Water temperature at Torrance Beach, 59.

Seek Clues In Bank Holdup

Torrance Police were still gathering clues today in their attempt to solve Friday's armed robbery at the Crenshaw Branch of Security First National Bank.

A final tally of the missing funds this week revealed the shotgun-toting bandits made off with \$7,230, police stated.

Two Bandits
Two of the bandits entered the rear door of the bank shortly before 2 p.m. wearing blue coveralls and announced bluntly, "O.K. a y everyone, this is a hold-up."

Nearly two dozen customers were then forced at gunpoint to stand in the center of the lobby, police reported. Persons entering the bank while the robbery was in progress were intercepted at the door by the hold-up men and were forced to join the others in the lobby.

Third Suspect
A third suspect, nattily

dressed in a brown business suit, vaulted the counter and scooped the cash from tellers' cages. Bank employee Irene Mumblo, police said, was made to unlock a cash drawer for the thugs.

"Stand still. Don't try to follow us and get a description of the car," the bandits warned their prisoners.

No one did, the men fled unobserved, officers reported.

Suspicious
Officers were checking out a report that two men were seen recently making motion pictures of the bank, which is located at 17805 Crenshaw, and its surroundings. The photographers acted suspiciously when observed and fled, reports said.

FAMILY ARGUMENT

Carson Man Charged With Wife's Murder

Death climaxed a family argument in the Carson area Monday evening.

Deputies at the Firestone sheriff's station said Fred Stanley Davis, a 42-year-old longshoreman, was in custody on suspicion of murdering his wife.

Sheriff's investigators found the body of Davis' wife, Henrietta Jean, 43, a receptionist for a Wilmington physician, lying in the front room of her home at 421 East 229th St., in the county area near Torrance.

Detectives reported that Davis and his wife had been arguing on the front lawn of the house, that they went inside and shortly thereafter

Davis shot the woman in the face with a 22-caliber revolver.

Davis told deputies that he and his wife had consumed about a pint of whiskey between them just before the shooting incident.

The couple's 17-year-old son, Gary, returned from work and was informed by his father, "I just shot Mom," de-

(Continued on Page Two)



HOLD UP victims, Albert Sorensen (center) and William Baker (right), tell police officer Jerry Snyder how a pair of gunmen entered Torrance

Jewelry and Loan in Downtown Torrance Monday and escaped with more than \$600 in cash and two guns.

—PRESS photo

Daring Gunmen Rob Pawnshop

Two gunmen hit a Downtown Torrance pawn shop early Monday afternoon and made off with more than \$600 in cash and two guns after tying up the proprietor and another man.

Albert W. Sorensen, 54, co-owner of Torrance Jewelry and Loan, located at 1312 Satori St., told police officers that he and a visitor, William Baker, 79, of 1540 Marcelina Ave. were forced by the bandits to lie down in the backroom while the thugs bound their hands and feet.

Officers said the majority of money was taken from the store's safe and cash drawer. In addition the bandits rifled the victims' wallets.

Sorensen said the gunmen were neat, well dressed and "very professional in their actions." Baker told police that one of the bandits shoved a 45 caliber automatic pistol in his ribs while the other carried a 38 caliber snub nose revolver.

Besides the cash, police reported, a pearl-handled revolver and a hunting rifle were missing from the store.

Carson C-C Starts Yule Light Contest

A gaily decorated Carson is goal of the Carson Chamber of Commerce for the 1963 Christmas season.

The chamber again this year is sponsoring their Christmas Decorating Contest, Sak Yamamoto and Ben Cluff, co-chairmen of the project, announced today.

Judging the contest this year will be Mrs. Betty Ingram, art instructor at Carson High School; Mrs. Bernice Roller, civic leader; and Mrs. Kay Tarling, school teacher.

Residents, whose homes are in the area bounded by 190th street on the North; Lomita Ave. on the South; Wilmington Ave. on the East and Normandie on the West, are eligible to enter the contest.

Entries will be judged on the evenings of Dec. 19, 20, and 21 between the hours of 6:30 and 10 p.m. Persons wishing to enter the competition must send their entries to Yamamoto at 21900 So. Martin St. Torrance, before Dec. 16.

Council Briefs

Torrance City Councilmen faced a 39-item agenda when they convened last night in their city hall chambers. Started off with a prayer led by Councilman Nickolas Dreale, the business meeting got under way immediately with a hearing into the vacation of Amie Ave. between Spencer St. and Del Amo Blvd. The municipal body voted to initiate a vacation resolution.

Permission was granted a request by the County Registrar of Voters office to use the Torrance City Hall as a polling place for the June Primary and the November General Elections.

Nativity Catholic Church received permission to block off a portion of Del Amo

Bldv. in front of St. Joseph's Mission Church for two hours on Dec. 15. Rev. William Appling said in his request that an outdoor Mass and procession will be held on that date.

Jefferson, Inc. received approval from the city council to develop a large store building in Rolling Hills Plaza Shopping Center. The new building is to be constructed between the Thrifty Drug Store and Cabrillo Savings.

Salvata Construction Co. was awarded contracts for the construction of storm drains at Western Ave. and 190th St., and for the improvement of the intersection of Crenshaw and Sepulveda Bldvs.

Fire engine No. 3 will get a new coat of paint under a council authorization. Color is to be Tartar Red.

The city bus which was damaged in a collision with a parked truck last month will be repaired by Gardena Municipal Bus Lines for an amount not to exceed \$4200.

Traffic signals at the intersection of Sepulveda Blvd. and Madrona Ave. were accepted by the council. The signals, now flashing amber to Sepulveda traffic and red to vehicles on Madrona, will not be operational until hooked up to railroad signs.

'Gas' Fire Burns Man

A La Puente man received serious burns over most of his body when gasoline splashed on him, caught fire.

Police report Leon Otis, 38, was removing spark-plugs from a tractor on a construction site at 236th St. and Hawthorne Blvd. when the accident occurred.

Witness told investigating officers the gasoline spurted from a plug hole and for some unknown reason ignited.

Otis was clad only in his shorts when police arrived.

Doctors at Little Company of Mary Hospital, found the man to be burned over 50 per cent of his body with mostly first and second degree burns.

NEW POST OFFICE PLANNED FOR MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE

It was recently announced by the post office that plans are underway to build a new post office in Torrance in the interest of more efficient service and to improve the working conditions for postal employees.

Postmaster General John A. Gronouski in a press release went into detail on the new office.

"The new building," Mr. Gronouski said, "is designed to carry out the Post Office Department's objective of providing newly constructed postal units where they are most urgently needed in the interest of more efficient postal service."

"The emphasis in our construction program will continue to be on adequate space for postal operations, not only for current needs but for the foreseeable future."

Policy

"The Department's policy is to use existing buildings where they can be suitably altered or remodeled to meet the needs of the ever increasing volume of mail. As circumstances dictate, we will also consider moving our postal operations into more spacious quarters if they are available."

"Where neither of these conditions is feasible we will authorize the construction

of new postal units, such as the post office at Torrance.

"The construction program is being concentrated in those areas where the need is urgent and suitable space cannot be obtained except through new construction."

Location

The building in Torrance will be located on the northwest corner of Crenshaw Blvd. and Conterey St.

The Postmaster said the building will be constructed under the Department's Lease Construction Program.

Plans

Plans and specifications for the new building, as well as bidding forms and other pertinent data, will be made available to prospective bidders at an early date, at which time the Post Office Department will advertise for bids. The site option will be transferred to the successful bidder, who will purchase the building and lease it to the Department on a long term basis.



SANTA ANSWERS letters addressed to him at the North Pole for the first time this year thanks to U.S. Postal officials. Miss Clara Conner, Torrance postmaster, is shown holding one of the new replies to children's notes to Santa Claus. Post office personnel are sending the cards to all children who

include a return address on their Christmas gift requests. Postmarked "North Pole", the cards read: "Dear Friend, Your letter made me glad that you are good. Santa is coming to visit all good little boys and girls. Here's Love, Santa Claus." The cards list Santa's ZIP code number as 99701.

—PRESS photo

ONLY
12
MORE
SHOPPING
DAYS 'TIL
CHRISTMAS

Dear Santa

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE PRESS WILL PRINT LETTERS TO SANTA AS A REGULAR FEATURE IN EACH ISSUE UNTIL CHRISTMAS. THE LETTERS, WRITTEN BY LOCAL YOUNGSTERS, APPEAR JUST AS THEY WERE RECEIVED.

DEAR SANTA

How are you doing?

How are your workers doing? I am going to you what I want for Christmas. I want a golfino and record player and and electric baseball and a football suit.

love
Robert

Dear Santa,

I love you. It was fun to sit on your lap Saturday and tell you what I wish for Christmas. I would like a Barbie doll more than anything. Please come to visit me and fill my stocking I will be a good girl for you and mama and daddy, love and kisses, Janie6 Yrs. old.

Dear Santa Claus,

Please bring me a Barbie and Ken doll and anything else you think a good girl should have.

Thank you, Santa
Cindy Linn

DEAR SANTA,

I want an aircraft carrier like my daddy's for Christmas.

I'm going to be a good boy.

Bring my brother Shel a Bugs Bunny Rabbit that talks. He's too little to write.

Sincerely yours,
Tony

Dear Santa Claus

I want a Desk with a Chair and light tool And a Midge. And a Brownie ring.

Love Sherrie Lynn